

REMARKS

Claim 2-27, 29 and 31 are pending in the application.

Claims 13-27, withdrawn from consideration have been cancelled hereinabove.

Claims 2, 3, 11, 12, 29 and 31 have been cancelled hereinabove.

Claims 4-10 stand objected to.

I. ELECTION/RESTRICTION

Non-elected claims 13-21, withdrawn from consideration have been cancelled hereinabove.

II. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 2 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by *Kaplit*, U.S. Patent No. 4, 499,471. The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claim 2 over *Kaplit*. Although the Applicants disagree that *Kaplit* teaches the identical invention of claim 2, claim 2 has been cancelled hereinabove to advance prosecution of the application. Therefore, claim 2 is respectfully withdrawn from the Examiner's consideration. The Applicants reserve the right to recapture the subject matter of claim 2 in any continuing application claiming the benefit of priority of the instant application.

III. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 2, 3, 11, 12, 29 and 31 have rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by *Thomsen*, U.S. Patent No. 6,002,299. The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 2, 3, 11, 12, 29 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over *Thomsen*. Claims 2, 3, 11, 12, 29 and 31 have been cancelled hereinabove and are respectfully withdrawn from the Examiner's consideration, to advance prosecution of the application. The Applicants respectfully reserve the right to recapture the

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subject matter of claims 2, 3, 11, 12, 29 and 31 in any continuing application claiming the benefit of priority in the instant application.

IV. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3, 12, 29 and 31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over *Kaplit*. The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 3, 12, 29 and 31 over *Kaplit*. Claims 3, 12, 29 and 31 have been cancelled hereinabove and are respectfully withdrawn from the Examiner's consideration to advance prosecution of the application. The Applicants respectfully reserve the right to recapture the subject matter of claims 3, 12, 29 and 31 in any continuing application claiming the benefit of priority in the instant application.

V. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 4-10 have been deemed allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicants understand that the reference to a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph is an inadvertent typographical error, and no rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph is pending, as discussed with Examiner Ton in a telephonic interview on December 4, 2003. The Applicants appreciate the opportunity to discuss this matter with Examiner Ton, and thank Examiner Ton for her efforts in examining the application. Accordingly, the Applicants have rewritten claim 4 hereinabove in independent form. Remaining claims 5-10 depend from an allowable base claim or an intervening claim that depends from an allowable base claim.

VI. CONCLUSION

As a result of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully assert that the remaining claims in the Application are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests an early allowance of such claims.

The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner call Applicants' attorney at the below listed number if the Examiner believes that such a discussion would be helpful in resolving any remaining problems.

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Respectfully submitted,

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